GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
SHORTAGE OF COAL IN NTPC POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability as well as shortage of coal in case of each thermal power station in the country at present;

(b) whether any step has been taken by the Government to meet the requirement of coal for each plant;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some alternative arrangement has also been made in view of the coal shortage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER(SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 105 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24.10.2008 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF COAL IN NTPC POWER PLANTS.

(a) : The Coal supply position to Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) in the country is not comfortable. This has resulted in decline of coal stock at most of the power stations in the country. The All India coal stock at power stations depleted from 11.04 Million Tonne as on 1st April, 2008 to 4.856 Million Tonne (MT) as on 19th October, 2008, against the normative requirement of about 22 Million Tonne. Among 77 thermal power stations monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 55 thermal power stations were `critical` having coal stock less than 7 days, out of which 35 were `super critical` having stock of less than 4 days. Details of coal stock at various thermal power stations in the country as on 19th October, 2008 is given at Annex-I.

The details of coal linkage, receipt and percentage materialisation with respect to linkage during the Quarters I & II of 2008-09 in respect of each of the thermal power stations of NTPC are given at Annex-II.

(b) to (e) : The following steps have been/are being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of coal for thermal power stations:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) The Ministry of Coal is taking steps upon to enhance production of coal in the country.

(iii) Import of coal to meet the shortfall in domestic availability of coal.

(iv) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

In order to bridge the shortfall, power utilities were advised to import 20 Million Tonne of coal during 2008-09 including 8.25 Million Tonne by NTPC. During the period April to September 2008, the power utilities have imported around 5.398 MT coal. The utilities are being exhorted to expedite their imports. The Ministry of Power is impressing upon the Coal Ministry also to increase their offer of coal supply to power utilities, so that generation can be maximized.